



THE VOYAGER

Students Voice Their Opinions on the Field of Dreams

Field Of Dreams Danielle Russo

The "Field of Dreams" has been an ongoing issue in Parsippany. The debate essentially focuses on two essential points: Hundreds of kids will benefit from the *Field of Dreams* including the football team, soccer teams and field hockey team while the opponents question the cost and source of funding. In my mind, the answer is obvious. If we create the *Field of Dreams*, multiple sports teams will have an opportunity to play on it in rain or shine since the weather conditions will no longer be an issue. Imagine the excitement when hundreds of residents can watch our athletes at night in a state of the art complex. According to Parsippanyfieldsofdreams.org, the Board of Education currently pays approximately \$60,000 a year to maintain the football field. Building the fields for both the Hills and the High will save over time \$700,000 in both maintenance costs and unnecessary bus expenses. The fields will not get dug up by the athletes cleats, do not need to be painted after rain, and do not have to be cut when it gets too long. Track and field and band can currently not use the field because the grass cannot withstand continual use, but an artificial field would support all teams. Creating the *Field of Dreams* is a great option that will benefit the Parsippany school district and community as a whole. Support our school, our town and our athletes by supporting the *Field of Dreams*.

Field Of Nightmares Kelsey Bradley

Local government has a complex way of working, or at least that is what Parsippany's local government has led me to believe. Why? Perhaps it is the fact that although hundreds of people disapprove, although local families are still salvaging their homes from the devastating hurricane Irene, our own Mayor along with many Parsippany residents insist that now is the time to spend 4 million dollars on new turf fields for both high schools. The proposed financing for this project will come from the Open Space Trust Fund that Parsippany currently has in order to preserve and protect land in our town. While it is no doubt that our fields are not up to high standards, and while turf fields would be a wonderful asset to our town, there are, quite frankly, bigger and more important issues Parsippany should be focusing on. Additionally, Parsippany already has three beautiful and useful turf fields in ideal locations that could easily be enhanced for a lesser cost. The purpose of the Open Space Trust Fund is to improve our towns recreational and land conditions. Currently, residents in Lake Hiawatha are suffering in conditions much worse than the playing fields at our High Schools. In fact, the Parsippany Hills Vikings made it all the way to the football state championships while playing on that field-could it really be worse than the ruined homes of Lake Hiawatha? There is an essential question that the Mayor and all of Parsippany must ask themselves - are these fields really more deserving of money and improvement than the local homes and families that have been destroyed? The answer should be obvious. Furthermore, it is obvious that those behind the so-called "Field of Dreams" project know the answer to this ethical question. For this reason, the committees have been meeting for almost a year, devising multiple ways to get this project passed, basically without the general public knowing about it. However, I personally feel that discussion of a major change such as the installation of new fields, a project that would affect all residents who live near such fields as well as the students at the school, should be something that the public is aware of. Now that the "Field of Dreams" project is being talked about more seriously, many townspeople have come together to state their opinions against this proposal. Those who live near and around the schools are outraged at the thought of additional disruptions that this project will provide. Overall, while the proposal is masked by its appealing name and exaggerated benefits, it is simply a selfish desire when looked at without the smoke and mirrors. While there are many people ready to dive in and tear up the grass, there are also hundreds of residents who believe this is wrong. I believe the conditions of the high school football fields are important. However, this is not the way to go about improving it nor is it necessarily the appropriate time to do so. With so many people unhappy with this proposal, it would be a disgrace for Parsippany to follow through with the installation of such fields in this manner.

Relax Juniors!

Kim Deveraux

If you ask the students at PHHS about their jump from sophomore to junior year, you might hear them say that it was stressful and challenging. Yet, you don't have to be one of those students! I have one simple suggestion: set goals. Setting goals in high school will keep you organized and calm and get you ready for whatever comes your way in the future. Why go through the stress everyone else has when you can prepare yourself for the hardships in this difficult time? I'm not going to lie. Junior year is a hard year to get through with SAT's, applying to colleges, HSPA testing, finding jobs, and none the less, doing all this while taking part in extra curricular activities. Yet there are people to help you through this process. You have guidance counselors that can answer all your questions and help you each step of the way during your sophomore to junior year. On the other hand, you must do your part in managing your time in order to be successful. There will be times where sports and schoolwork get in the way; however, know when to do homework and study and know when to take a break with school activities. It will help you tremendously! Additionally, colleges not only look at your grades, but they also look at your participation in school and how you interact in clubs, sports, and activities that you are offered. Don't be out of the loop; get involved because it **will** benefit you in the end. If you set goals for yourself, manage your time, ask questions, and get involved, you can deter that stress every other student wished he or she didn't have. Get ready for your future now as you embark into your junior year.

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Melissa Piccoli

There has been a lot going on in PHHS lately! The AP government class organized a mock primary where the students in the class represented the Republican nominees and the incumbent presidential hopeful, Barack Obama. The nominees were Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, and our current president Barack Obama. Hait Leuva was President Obama, Swet Patel played Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich was Samiksha Shetty, and Ron Paul was Lauren Slyva. In addition to this, JSA, the Junior State of America, is currently working on a project. This club takes part in many political activities. This past February they went to Washington DC to debate the bills they wrote and to participate in numerous debates. Another activity that is going to be happening is the DECA state competition. DECA, which stands for Distributive Education Clubs of America, is a club that focuses on business and marketing strategies. To make it to states, the members must have received a high enough score on their role-play as well as on their written test at the previous convention that took place at Ramapo College. Many students from PHHS qualified to go to states, which took place from February 26th through February 28th. Lastly, the IPLE class conducted a mock trial and a mock Supreme Court. Ten of the IPLE students were involved with a mock trial competition that took place at the Morris County Court House. They competed as the prosecution and defense in a case and competed against different schools. After each round the winners continue to compete until they reach the final round at the Rutgers Law Center! The other IPLE students took part in a mock Supreme Court Case. One of the cases was determining whether or not doctor assisted suicide was Constitutional, and the other was determining whether or not using the military as a police force was Constitutional. All of the activities take a lot of time and effort to be successful and The Voyager Staff want to congratulate all of the students who take part in AP Government, JSA, DECA, and IPLE for doing such a wonderful job!



JSA at their Winter Congress